



A western carriage passes in front of the Cheyenne Depot and a giant boot. Over two dozen boots were painted during the 2004 "These Boots Were Made For Talking" campaign. They were auctioned off for a fundraiser and Cheyenne kept several boots (like the Antelope Boot pictured), as tourist attractions.

Summer of Fun:

Seven unique things to see while stationed at Warren



Emperor the Penguin, now stuffed and mounted, is on permanent display at Little America.

Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Walters

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Public Affairs

While you may not be able to afford a vacation to the Caribbean this year, you can afford to take a day and see the unique sites in our area.

1. Emperor the penguin

Emperor 'lives' at Little America. Yes, he's a real penguin. The famous bird is cased under glass at Little America here in Cheyenne. Allegedly, the owners wanted Emperor to be their live mascot, but the penguin died in 1950 on its way from Antarctica to Boston. So, they had him stuffed and mounted, and now he stands on a fake block of ice.

2. Abe's giant head

Twenty miles west of Cheyenne, on I-80 at exit 323, is a big bronze Abe Lincoln head. The Lincoln Monument was commissioned by the state of Wyoming in 1959 to honor the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, and placed here in 1969 when I-80 was completed.

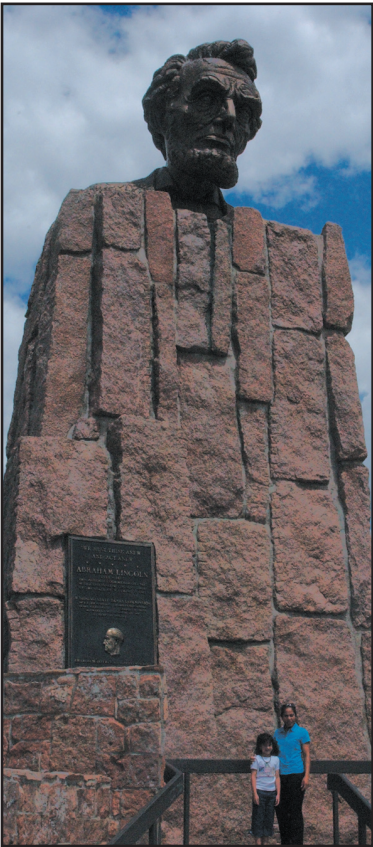
You know Lincolnway, right? That's Highway 30, which stretches across the Midwest. At certain points, Highway 30 and I-80 meet. Abe's head, which is 12 1/2 feet high, marks the highest point of the old Lincoln Highway: approximately 8,700 ft. above sea level.

3. The Pyramid

Yes, there really is a pyramid in Wyoming. It's called the Ames Pyramid. Go east on I-80, and take the Ames Memorial exit. Go south and east on the dirt road.

Oliver and Oakes Ames were brothers and 19th

century industrialists who convinced Congress to finance the Union Pacific Railroad. The railroad decided to show its appreciation by building a pyramid in their honor in 1882, out of native granite quarried from the site. Giant portraits of the Ames Brothers were chiseled into opposite sides near the apex of the pyramid.



A large bronze sculpture of President Abe Lincoln's head overlooks I-80 commemorating the highest point of Lincoln Highway.

4. Home of the Jackalope

Douglas, Wyo. is home to the world's most elusive critter: the Jackalope. Not rabbit, not antelope and not quite right, the Jackalope is only caught in tourist trap gift shops. Douglas Herrick, a taxidermist, was the first to preserve the Jackalope in 1939. This year, Wyoming legislators declared the Jackalope as Wyoming's

"Official Mythical Creature." Drive through Jackson, and you can have your picture taken with an 8-foot-tall Jackalope. Wow, won't your friends at home be jealous!

5. A Titan I

People find it ironic that Kimball, Neb. has a Titan I missile in the city's park since the missile fields are pure Minuteman III. To get there, take the Highway 71 exit off of I-80. Turn east and go nine blocks. The missile has seen better days, and Greg Robinson, Kimball's mayor, wants help in preserving it. So if you happen to have a Titan I nose cone, give him a call.

6. Wax Museum

Thermopolis, Wyo. is known for its hot springs. But while you are there, don't miss out on the wax museum. Most of its 20 dioramas feature people and the old west.

There are notorious outlaws preserved in wax, including Cattle Kate who was the first woman hung in Wyoming. Yeah, it's kinda weird, but if you are like me and probably won't ever make it to Madame Toussard's, it's just as good.

7. Cheyenne's Boots

The newly remodeled Cheyenne Depot Museum Foundation has giant boots displayed outside. Regionally-famous artists painted the oversized boots, and most were auctioned off last year. It was a huge success, and the city kept a few as tourists attractions. They will be doing another round of boots next year, so if you know any regionally-famous artists, tell them to get their boots ready!